



AREA HEARING CENTER

450 Dabney Drive
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November 8, 2000

Honorable Donna Shalala
Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., S.W.
Room 615F
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala:

As an Audiologist, I write with respect to hearing instruments. As the AARP has confirmed, hearing instruments are highly effective but dramatically underutilized medical device.

I am very with concerned with reports that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has reportedly sent to you a proposal for revising the current regulations governing the dispensing of hearing instruments in this country that would dramatically increase the cost of hearing health care services and restrict access to hearing health care providers. Please stop and carefully consider the impact that this proposed rule will have on the nation's hearing impaired and on the nation's hearing health care provider.

Hearing impairment is a major health care concern. Please don't let the FDA put forth their proposed rule that would impede access to needed hearing health care services for millions of Americans.

Very truly yours,

Lara R. Gray, MA, CCC-A

cc: International Hearing Society
North Carolina Association of Hearing Care Professionals

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